

Abstract

The present invention provides 2 $\beta$ -chloromethyl-2 $\alpha$ -methylpenam-3 $\alpha$ -carboxylic acid benzhydryl ester (CMPB) crystals of excellent stability, and a process for  
5 producing the CMPB crystals comprising the steps of (A) concentrating a solution containing CMPB; (b) subjecting the thus-obtained concentrate to column chromatography; (C) concentrating a CMPB-containing fraction; and (D) dissolving the thus-obtained CMPB-containing concentrate  
10 in an ether solvent and adding a hydrocarbon solvent to the resulting solution to precipitate CMPB crystals.